

<!-- /\* Style Definitions \*/ p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} @page Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.25in 1.0in 1.25in; mso-header-margin:.5in; mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1 {page:Section1;} -->

Madame Speaker, as a Congressman from St. Louis a major aviation hub and a member of the Aviation Subcommittee, I rise today in strong support of the FAA Reauthorization.

Thanks to Chairmen Oberstar and Costello for their leadership and dedication to bring this bill to the floor again.

A long term reauthorization of the FAA is long overdue. We need a four year reauthorization to provide stability to airport development projects and modernizing the aging air traffic control system.

This legislation authorizes nearly \$70 billion in needed investments in FAA programs over the next four years to help meet the growing demand on our system. The Federal Aviation Administration estimates over the next seven to twelve years our airlines will carry more than one billion passengers. Without expanded capacity airports will not be able to serve the increases in passengers.

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Airport capital investment is critical to accommodate growth and improve service. As you all know passenger facility charges are critical to funding these projects.

Additionally, this legislation will increase the cap on passenger facility charges from \$4.50 to \$7.00.

This increase would generate \$1.1 billion in additional revenue for airport development annually.

I am pleased to see a significant increase in the Airport Improvement Program. Over the four year life of the bill's authorization this amounts to an additional \$1 billion in authorized funds for AIP.

This increase in funding will be especially helpful to airports, like Lambert St. Louis International Airport, that are especially reliant on AIP funding. Also, critical to handling the expected increases in the number of passengers is modernizing our air transportation system.

The FAA Reauthorization includes \$13.4 billion for FAA Facilities and Equipment to accelerate the implementation of Next Generation Air Transportation System to modernize our air transportation system.

Again, thank you for the time and I urge my colleagues to support this transformational FAA Reauthorization.